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British Campaign for the Defence of Political Prisoners and Human Rights in Indonesia

MEMO

Memo to all East Timor solidarity groups

Subject: Representations at UN Committee-of-24, August 1986
Date: 19 June 1986

1. At the meeting of European solidarity groups in Amsterdam on 14-15 June, we discussed Fretilin's request to solidarity groups to send representatives to address the Committee-of-24 meeting in New York in August this year. [See Ramos Horta's Memo of 6 May 1986.] So far, only three European groups have decided to attend, the Association of Endangered People, West Germany, the French Association and TAPOL. CDPM and the Dutch Komite are also likely to attend.

2. Financial cutbacks at the UN (basically a move by the US to sabotage UN activities in areas like human rights and decolonisation) could result in a shortened General Assembly meeting as well as cuts in the Fourth Committee's agenda. This makes the Committee-of-24 session all the more important as a focus for lobbying in support of East Timor. (We were warned that even this might be affected by last-minute cutbacks, so people are advised to check on whether the meeting will be taking place, before making final arrangements to leave for New York.)

3. We agreed that it would be helpful to coordinate the preparations among groups intending to go, in particular to ensure that as many topics as possible are raised in our submissions. In addition to the primary topic of self-determination which we would all want to address, these topics would include: the birth control programme; transmigration; the work of UN agencies and the ICRC in East Timor; Indonesian practices, social and economic; Indonesian military operations; the position of the resistance; the 1987 "elections"; human rights violations; arms sales to Indonesia; the Catholic church; international lobbying by and support for, Indonesia. This list is by no means complete. TAPOL was asked to coordinate this, which is the main purpose of this Memo.

4. The German group wants to talk about the role of international, especially West German, support for Indonesia in suppressing the truth about East Timor. TAPOL will discuss Indonesian social and economic practices and the "elections".

5. The purpose of this coordination is to ensure that as many topics as possible are raised, but it does not mean that each would confine themselves to a single topic. That said, it would be helpful if you could inform us which topic(s) you are likely to address.

6. If the number of groups going to New York warrants it, we would try to hold a one-day meeting of solidarity groups there. This would broaden the coordination that has so far been confined to the Europe-based groups. In particular, our European meetings lack the input from other groups that are so actively involved in our collective endeavours.

7. We very much look forward to hearing from you on the several points raised in this Memo.

Carmel

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